

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01

SAB-01 IO-10 AID-05 /070 W

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R 241445Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5702

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFRO, IS, EG, XF

SUBJECT: PRESS ON NEGOTIATIONS WITH EGYPT AND US GUARANTEEES

1. ISRAELI PRESS DURING PAST TWO DAYS HAS BEEN FULL OF REPORTS AND COMMENTARIES CONCERNING WHAT SECRETARY ACCOMPLISHED DURING MOST RECENT TOUR OF AREA AND, IMPLICITY, WHAT LIES IN STORE UPON HIS RETURN NEXT MONTH.

2. LEAD ARTICLE IN FEB 24 JERUSALEM POST (BLITZER AND RATH, FROM WASHINGTON), WHICH CITES "AUTHORITATIVE SOURCES" FOR REPORT THAT SECRETARY'S DIPLOMACY IS NOW LIKELY TO RESULT IN FAR-REACHING SECOND-STAGE AGREEMENT WITH EGYPT INVOLVING ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM BOTH ABU RODEIS OIL FIELDS AND MITAL AND GIDI PASSES IN RETURN FOR LONG-TERM EGYPTIAN PLEDGE TO REFRAIN FROM RESUMING HOSTILITIES. ARTICLE GOES ON TO STATE THAT STATE DEPT IS ALREADY WORKING ON FORMULA WHICH WILL INCORPORATE THREE MAIN ISRAELI DEMANDS: CLEAR UNDERTAKINGS BY EGYPT THAT NEW AGREEMENT WOULD REMAIN IN FORCE FOR PERIOD OF AT LEAST 3-5 YEARS; FIRM EGYPTIAN PLEDGE TO ABANDON WAR OPTION; AND CONCRETE ARRANGEMENTS ON THE GROUND, INCLUDING

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DEMILITARIZED ZONES AND UNEF PRESENCE THAT COULD NOT BE

REMOVED BY EITHER PARTY.

3. REMAINDER OF ISRAELI PRESS IS DECIDEDLY SKEPTICAL THAT AGREEMENT WITH EGYPT IS NEAR AT HAND. MAARIV(HARIF) FEB. 24 SAYS THAT " DR. KISSINGER HAS NOT OBTAINED ANY CONCESSION FROM EGYPT THAT WOULD BE SATISFACTORY TO ISRAEL IN AN INTERIM SETTLEMENT", CITING AS THE SOURCE " DIPLOMATIC CONTACTS WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE." STATEMENT TO SAME EFFECT BY DEFMIN PERES IS ALSO GIVEN PROMINENT PLAY. DAVAR EDITORIAL ATTRIBUTES STORIES SUGGESTING AGREEMENT IS IN OFFING TO EGYPTIAN SOURCES AND SAYS THEY REFLECT DIFFICULTY WHICH CAN BE EXPECTED IN OBTAINING EGYPTIAN POLITICAL CONCESSIONS. EDITORIALS IN MAARIV AND YEDIOT AHARONOT BOTH CITE STATEMENT OF FORMER SECRETARY ROGERS THAT CURRENT US DIPLOMACY IS DESIGNED TO IMPLEMENT HIS OWN LONG-STANDING PLAN (WHICH HAS NEVER BEEN POPULAR IN ISRAEL). YEDIOT ADDS THAT DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ROGERS AND SECRETARY KISSINGER IS THAT LATTER WRAPS PLAN IN FOG--"WHICH IS WHY HE IS MORE SUCCESSFUL."

4. PRESS IS ALSO OCCUPIED WITH CORRECTING IMPRESSION FROM PREVIOUS REPORTS THAT SECOND STAGE AGREEMENT WITH EGYPT MIGHT INVOLVE US GUARANTEES OF ISRAELI SECURITY. WRITERS CITE WIDE VARIETY OF SOURCES, INCLUDING SECRETARY AND PRIMIN RABIN, FOR CLARIFICATION THAT CONSIDERATION OF SUCH US GUARANTEES WOULD ONLY ARISE IN CONTEXT OF OVERALL REGIONAL SETTLEMENT. FEB. 23 HAARETZ EDITORIAL, WHILE NOT DENYING VALUE OF US GUARANTEES, PUTS SUBJECT IN DIFFERENT LIGHT: " IT IS BETTER THAT WE SHOULD NOT DELUDE OURSELVES: IF ANY CHANCE EXISTS FOR A US TREATY COMMITMENT TO OUR SECURITY, THIS WILL BE CONDITIONAL UPON ACHIEVEMENT OF AN OVERALL FINAL PEACE SETTLEMENT...WHICH WILL REQUIRE US TO RETURN MORE OR LESS TO THE JUNE 4, 1967 BORDERS."

5. COMMENT: WITH EXCEPTION OF BLITZER ARTICLE, (ONLY STORY BY ISRAELI CORRESPONDENT IN U.S. IN PRESS TODAY,) , OVERALL TONE OF PRESS IS ONE OF CAUTION TINGED WITH SUSPICION. WE BELIEVE THIS TONE ACCURATELY REFLECTS PUBLIC MOOD, WHICH IS UNLIKELY TO CHANGE IN ABSENCE OF SUBSTANTIAL EVIDENCE OF EGYPTIAN READINESS TO MAKE MEANINGFUL POLITICAL CONCESSIONS. AS FOR US GUARANTEES, ISRAELIS FOR MOST PART RECOGNIZE

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THEIR MERIT, BUT MAY BE BEGINNING TO VIEW THEM AS POSSIBLE SUGAR-COATING FOR POTENTIALLY BITTER PILL.
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